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automatic systems, the computers, that would take decisions and start the war. The political leadership would already be unable to play any role in the process.

It is also understandable that only automatic devices are able to respond quickly enough to other automatic devices. What then would happen if the other side also created the necessary automated systems? The fate of mankind would be placed in the hands of automatic machines.

Automatic devices make mistakes, even the most dependable computers sometimes fail. The more complicated the technological systems are, the more probable are errors and unforeseen situations that might result in a catastrophe. The super-complex automatic weapon systems developed and deployed in outer space would have to work in conditions of constant combat alert for decades and never make an error. That is not realistic. Besides, is it possible to predict the reaction of space strike systems to the launching of peaceful delivery missiles? Wouldn't automatic devices activate space weapons in response to an accidental deviation of such missiles from their trajectories or to the accidental explosion in outer space of a space vehicle similar to that of Challenger?

One should not exclude the possibility of a situation in which the creation of a "space shield" by one side would force the other side to create something similar as well. In that case two extremely complex systems would be opposed to each other. By the rules of the technological improvement of this kind of systems, in order to exclude possible technological mistakes joint large-scale tests would need to be carried out. That would be logical in any peaceful international project. It is absurd, however, in this case. The United States would not give an ABM system to the Soviet Union to enable the USSR to adapt its own measures of response to it, and vice versa. Thus, two mutually unco-ordinated and opposed automated systems would still further increase the probability of a catastrophe.

On several occasions already the American early warning services have sounded a false alarm after mistaking flocks of wild geese or something else for Soviet bombers. In each case, however, people have had enough time and wisdom to see the mistake. In the case of the SDI, there would not be time for that, and computers -- even the "smartest" ones -- don't have wisdom.

In the most thorough analysis of the SDI it is impossible to find even some individual features of the project that strengthen strategic stability. The SDI holds out no other promise for the future than the intensification of the arms race, increased tension, and an atmosphere of intense fear and distrust in relations among States. To put it briefly, strategic stability would be replaced by strategic chaos; old dangers would not disappear, they would only increase many times over and be supplemented by new dangers.

Artificial earth satellites are of great importance for the activities of mankind, for its progress and prosperity. They are used particularly extensively in communications, navigation and meteorology. Profitable and dependable commercial satellite communication systems for transmitting information for all kinds of purposes have been established. Satellite navigation systems have been utilized. No less than 50 countries already now receive information directly from meteorological satellites.